

# You Create HEALTHIER Communities

EL RIO  
20th Anniversary  
FOUNDATION

NEWSLETTER | Spring 2021

## Join us on a "Mission of Hope" for Tucson's Youth!

Your contribution will help us launch our first Teen Mental Health Pilot Project. "According to the National Institute of Mental Health, 13% of US children ages 8 to 15 are diagnosed with a mental disorder each year. Among children/youth living below 100% of the federal poverty level, more than 1 in 5 have a mental, behavioral, or developmental disorder." Pima County Health Department reported a 67% increase in youth suicides in 2020.

## Will you join us as an investor on "Mission of Hope" – El Rio's Teen Mental Health Project with your contributions directly or through support of our El Rio Foundation 20th Anniversary Gala?

El Rio's youth mental health pilot project will serve 200-300 youth, age 12+. El Rio currently provides medical services for 16,000 kids, ages 10-18 and 36,000+ children overall. We began depression screening for kids 12 and older during pediatric visits and the results are concerning! 23% of youth screened, ages 12-21, responded positive for depression. The COVID-19 pandemic has escalated the need for mental health services. Many in our country are calling this the second pandemic – a mental health pandemic.

With your support, we can bring help and hope to our children and their families. To donate online go to [www.Elrio.org](http://www.Elrio.org) and click DONATE, call us at 520-205-4947 or mail your check to El Rio Foundation, 839 W. Congress St. Tucson, AZ 85745. To join us as a sponsor of our fall 20th Anniversary Gala please contact, Jill Rodriguez at [jillr@elrio.org](mailto:jillr@elrio.org).

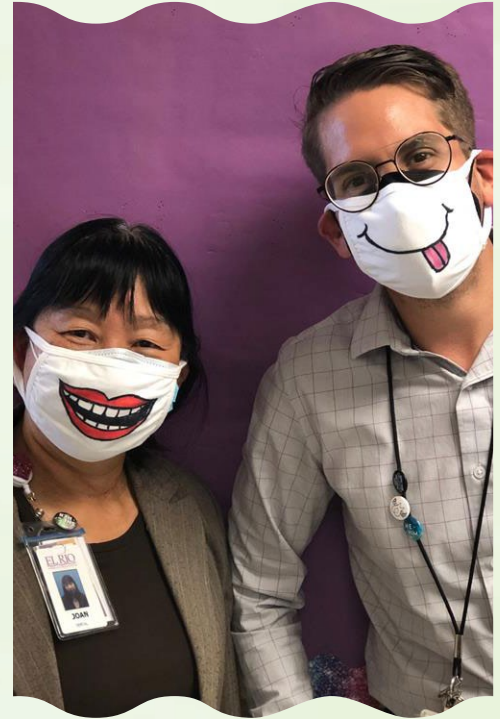


A vibrant, comic-book style graphic for the El Rio Gala 2021. The background is black with colorful, jagged borders in purple, yellow, and red. The text "2021" is in red, "El Rio" is in large yellow script, and "GALA" is in white block letters. A white speech bubble with red text says "SAVE THE DATE!". A yellow starburst contains the date "OCTOBER 22 2021". The El Rio Foundation logo is in the bottom left corner. On the right, there is a stylized illustration of a person's face with a wide, open mouth, showing red lips and white teeth, set against a background of colorful dots and lines.

## El Rio Vecinos Virtual Block Party by Daniela Siqueiros, Vecina

The El Rio Vecinos Block party went virtual in March! As Vecinos, we felt it was our turn to give back to the community! We found ways to celebrate El Rio Health's history, their staff, the Children's Dental Program, our Food and Beverage partners, and much more through a week-long virtual Block Party! We danced at home with the Havana Nights Kick-off Concert, showcased El Rio's Children's Dental Program with KVOA News 4 Tucson, picked up takeout food from some of Tucson's best dining, honored El Rio's front line workers and wrapped up the week with a Virtual Game Night.

We thank our sponsors for their generous support. Together with community donations, the El Rio Vecinos raised over \$130,000 for the Children's Dental Program at El Rio Health. Many thanks to our major sponsors: The Lawler Team at Nova Home Loans, BBVA, Blue Cross Blue Shield of Arizona, Crest Insurance Group, LLC, Mary Garrett-Linsalata and the Russell D. Garrett Foundation, Pacific Premier Bank, The Schaefer Team, Tucson Federal Credit Union, and 40+ other loyal sponsors and event partners.



## St. Elizabeth's Health Center Turns 60

St. Elizabeth's honors its 60th anniversary of service to the community in 2021! In 2020, the St. Elizabeth's site received a face lift and added new providers and services:



**St. Elizabeth's**  
+ HEALTH CENTER +

- The Angel Wing exam rooms were refreshed with new paint & equipment
- Four additional exam rooms were added to support growth
- The dental department has new dental chairs thanks to a generous donor
- Dr. Carolyn Quigley and her team are providing pediatric care to the children of St. E's.
- A PT/INR Registered Nurse schedule

has been implemented on Mondays for patients who are taking the blood thinner Coumadin.

- Nurse midwives see patients three days a week in St. E's Miracle Wing.
- Behavioral Health and Specialty Behavioral Health is offered to St. E's patients
- A community health advisor offers health insurance application assistance to patients in need



## NEW El Rio Grant Health Center to Open by Year-End

Thanks to you, we are excited to be expanding integrated health services to thousands more in need in our community. The Grant Road corridor is home to many refugees, seniors, veterans, and single parents. This new health center will help us expand services to thousands more in our community.

Our fundraising goal is \$1M in philanthropic support. And we are almost there!! **We have \$130,308 left to raise to reach our goal! With a gift of \$1,000 or more, you will be recognized on donor wall.**



Demolition on the former Wells Fargo building has been completed. In May construction will begin under the leadership of BWS Architects and Lloyd Construction Company, Inc. We will be equipping the new building for medical services, pharmacy, behavioral health, midwifery, dental care, nurse care coordination, wellness services and patient navigators. The needs are tremendous in this area of our city for high-quality, accessible, affordable health care as identified in the 2018 Pima County Health Needs Assessment (PCHNA). **Your investment in our new health center site at Grant Rd. & Dodge Blvd, will impact lives now and in the future.**

Would you like to make a gift in support of this project? Contact Becky Rebenstorf at [rebeccar2@elrio.org](mailto:rebeccar2@elrio.org)

## El Rio Golf Tournament Sponsors Support El Rio Colon Cancer and Treatment Fund

Thanks to the generosity of loyal supporters over \$60,000 was raised in support of El Rio's Colon Cancer Screening & Treatment Fund for qualified patients who may not have insurance or who have high deductibles. With the help of our donors, we're able to offer critical programs vital to the health of our community. Thank you to our major sponsors - **Sonora Quest Labs of Tucson, Casino Del Sol, Lloyd Company Construction, Inc., Sun Mechanical, Inc., Achilles Mechanical | Electrical | Plumbing, Tucson Frozen Storage, Stark Electric, Inc., Exact Sciences, Burns McDonnell, and The Levin Family Foundation Fund.** Thanks to Gold Sponsors, Banner | Aetna, BBVA, RG & Sons Plumbing, Inc. and Marketing Sponsors Delta Dental of Arizona and Dragoon Brewing Company. Over 17 golfer foursomes also stepped up to support El Rio and our patients.



Thank you to Colon Cancer Coalition, Tucson Conquistadores, and Exact Sciences for their 2020 charitable gift of \$35,000 for El Rio's Colon Cancer Prevention Program! 125 Uninsured patients received colonoscopies!



# THANK YOU

Your 2020 donations changed lives in many ways including:



## Asthma Prevention Program

Provided treatment for 85 children, ages 3-8 suffering with severe asthma who live in medically underserved areas of Tucson. One in five children in Tucson are affected by asthma – a rate 44% higher than the national average.



## Breast Cancer Screening Program

Thanks to donations, 223 women with no health care coverage received free mammograms. From these mammograms, 39 women needed follow up and one person had a positive diagnosis of breast cancer. In 2020 we performed 938 mammograms for uninsured patients amid the pandemic! In 2021, we anticipate performing 1,000 mammograms for uninsured patients with the help of donors, like you.



## Cancer Treatment Program

Fourteen uninsured people diagnosed with various forms of cancer were supported with over \$125,000 in discounted oncology care thanks to the generosity of supporters, like you. One pregnant patient had lost her job and insurance, when she was diagnosed with cancer. She recently expressed her gratitude for the midwife and donor support that helped her through a difficult time. She is cancer free and has a healthy baby!







## Center of Opportunity

Donations helped us purchase the needed medical and dental equipment for the new clinic site at the H.S. Lopez Family Foundation Center of Opportunity, which opened in April 2021. Services for people who were formerly homeless are provided in partnership with Gospel Rescue Mission.



Grateful to Open Wide Open Committee supporting COO's dental program in memory of Lawrence Yasmer, DDS

## Your 2020 Contributions Impacted Thousands of People!

Your donations were critical to supporting our front-line staffs and uninsured patients during this pandemic. Many whom we helped last year experienced loss of health care coverage, unemployment, increased stress, and higher rates of COVID-19 infection. In response, El Rio Health teams began working seven days a week to meet patient needs and accepted 5,000+ new patients, bringing the number we care for to 112,000+ people! We are helping 1,500-1,800 people each day, providing high-quality, accessible, compassionate health care. Our colleagues also assist patients with access to food, transportation, housing, and other critical needs. As of April 30, El Rio has administered 15,000+ COVID-19 vaccines to patients.



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## Pediatric Dental Integration Teams

Provided oral health screenings, varnish treatment and dental education for 9,377 children during the pandemic! Donor generosity ensures all children, including those who have no health care coverage, are helped.



## Pediatric Immunization Program

With a team-based care approach to improve vaccination rates, El Rio administered over 70,000 pediatric immunizations in 2020. El Rio's Immunization Coordinator follows the immunization records to ensure ALL children receive the immunizations they need to stay healthy and in school.







### **Reach Out & Read (ROAR) Children's Literacy Program**

Our pediatricians share the power of reading with families and encourage parents to make reading a part of their kids' lives from birth. Over 9,000 NEW books were purchased at a discounted price and given to children at well-child visits.



### **Reproductive Health Access Project (RHAP)**

is a youth-led program that offers free comprehensive sexual and reproductive health services to teens, ages 14-20. El Rio offers a special teen-only hotline to connect youth to care. Young people can call 520-AZ-SHINE to speak with a staff member trained in youth-friendly health care.



### **Did You Know?**

**El Rio Foundation is a qualified Arizona Charitable Tax Credit Non-profit? You can give up to \$400/single and couples up to \$800 for 2021!**

**Please give online at [elrio.org](http://elrio.org) (click DONATE) or call 520-205-4947.**

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20th Anniversary  
**FOUNDATION**



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839 W. Congress Street  
Tucson, AZ 85745



*You Create*  
**HEALTHIER**  
*Communities*



*JOIN US ON A  
MISSION OF HOPE!*  
*BENEFITING TEEN MENTAL HEALTH*



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*CHALLENGE  
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**HOPE**

**TRUST**

**CARE**

**FUTURE**